

FREE TO TAKE HOME!

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018 EDITION



School refusal



Mobile phones and kids



Dealing with depression



Watch on glaucoma

YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.
www.healthnews.net.au

● **PRACTICE DOCTORS**

Dr Michelle Barrett

MBBS, DRANZCOG, FRACGP

Family Medicine

Monday 2:30pm - 6:00pm

Wednesday 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Dr Patrick O'Callaghan

MBChB, BAO (NUI), FRACGP

Monday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 3:30pm

Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Dr Kate McCallum

MBBS, DRACOG, DCH

Family Medicine

Tuesday & Friday 9:30am - 5:00pm

Dr Caroline Luke

MBBS, Dip Sports Medicine, Mast Occ Medicine

Monday 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday & Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Dr Ying Chow

MChD

Dr Chow is currently on maternity leave until further notice.

Dr Matthew Lewis

MBBS (Hons), Bsc (Hons), FRACGP

Monday 8:30am - 12:00pm

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 5:30pm

Dr Jaclyn Moss

Monday 9:30pm - 12:45pm

Tuesday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Friday 9:30am - 12:45pm

Dr Stephen Martin

MBBS, ANU

Monday 9:15am - 1:15pm

Wednesday 9:15am - 3:00pm

Thursday 8:30am - 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Dr Michelle Hart

MBBS, FRACGP

Monday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

● **PRACTICE STAFF**

Practice Manager: Graeme Sellar

Practice Nurses: Jane, Danielle (RN) & Ann

Reception Staff: Nikki, Deb, Georgia, Brenton, Ben & Allayne

● **SURGERY HOURS**

Monday – Friday **8.00am – 6pm**

● **AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY**

For after hours care please phone:

1 300 422 567.

● **BILLING ARRANGEMENTS**

Please pay all fees on day of consultation.

All children below the age of 5 are bulk billed.

● **APPOINTMENTS**

Home Visits. If you need your doctor to make a home visit, please call the surgery first thing in the morning.

Booking a long appointment. Long appointments are available when required. They are not to be booked routinely, please ensure if you think you need a long appointment that you book one with reception. If a standard appointment is booked and there are many issues to discuss or resolve the doctor will require you return for another appointment rather than run very late in their session. Thank you for your co-operation.

Please notify us if you are unable to attend an appointment, well in advance. If more than one person from your family wishes to see the doctor at the same time, please ensure a separate appointment is made for each family member.

● **PRACTICE NEWS**

Happy New Year to all and I hope 2018 meets or exceeds your expectations in health and happiness. Summer is at its peak as I write and January has had some very hot days. At the time of writing we can be thankful to have avoided any major bush fires that have occurred in other states. However we'll hold the celebrations till after March!!

For the last couple of years we have hosted medical students from the ANU Medical School and have committed to do so again in 2018. The Doctors enjoy the teaching and recognise how vital it is to give prospective GP's a positive experience in General Practice. The practice also continues to help Registrars attain their GP fellowship.

Our GP's and nursing team are committed to offering quality care and this will sometimes mean they are running late please accept our apologies in the knowledge that when it is your turn you to see the doctor will also receive the same considered service.

Some of our GP's have had a good holiday over the Xmas break whilst some others are taking leave in February. As some of the GP's have added extra sessions this year we will have even more appointments available across the week and be better able to cope when some are on leave.

We are experiencing a lot of no shows for appointments with our nurses. Previously we have not charged for missed appointments with Nursing staff however this is no longer sustainable and a charge will be incurred if an appointment is not cancelled prior to the appointment time.

The practice use CALMS as our Medical Deputising Service, owned and operated by Canberra GP's, including ours, CALMS has been looking after our patients afterhours since the practice started. Call 1 300 422 567 if you need to see a doctor urgently when we are closed.

Finally we again look forward to a revitalised Brumbies outfit retaining their rightful mantle as Australia's leading Rugby team by way of claiming the Super championship. We came close last year so hopefully with another year's experience we can go all the way. Also good luck to the Raiders, they have a strong squad and if they can keep their pivotal players free from injury the green machine could give the finals a real shake.

As ever we value your feedback, please do not hesitate to ask if you have any queries or refer any complaints to our practice manager or contact the Health complaints Commission on 6205 2222.

Graeme Sellar, Practice Manager

▷ **Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.**



Mobile phones and kids

It is hard to believe that the ubiquitous mobile phone only became widely used in the 1990s and smart phones in the past decade.

Previous generations of parents did not have to contend with managing their children's use of phones. Today there is a view that children should have access but neither can you wind the clock back. Certainly, there is research showing that too much screen time is an issue for children because they tend to exercise less and it can impact on sleep. There is also the additional complication of social media being accessed via mobile phones anywhere, anytime.

Like all parenting, the key is setting simple rules and sticking to them. This is also age related. The notion of the 'electronic babysitter' used to apply to TV but now that can apply to phones. But handing a small child the phone as a way to pacify them is not a great idea.

For primary school children, it can be useful to have a phone to ring parents. This can be an older model that can make calls and can't access the internet. Much like TV time can be restricted by parents, so too can total screen time including phones. Ensure phones are not kept in children's bedrooms and are recharged in the kitchen or living room. For older children ensure a net filter is installed. Lead by example and don't be permanently attached to your own phone. Most importantly, don't be afraid to set boundaries and be 'the worst parent ever'. The objections will settle and your children will be better for it.

 Weblink <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/school-refusal>

School refusal can be serious

Children and adolescents who experience severe emotional distress at having to go to school need to be taken seriously. It can lead to considerable absence from school, which in turn can impact on education and job prospects. This is completely different to truancy and is not associated with anti-social behaviour.

School refusal is also completely different to normal anxiety that may precede exams or school camps.

There is no specific known cause. There may be various underlying worries the child has about school work, friendships, bullying, social isolation, conflicts with teachers, separation from parents, parental separation or family grief or trauma. There may be no apparent underlying issue.

Symptoms include tearfulness before school, frequent complaints of somatic symptoms such as headaches, tummy pains or dizziness before school but not on weekends through to tantrums before school.

A general medical check by your GP is important to ensure there are no other underlying medical issues. It is vital to manage the problem early. Parents, teachers, the school and sometimes education bodies have a role. The family as well as the child will need support. There may need to be involvement from the school counsellor (or an independent one).

Create a positive environment at school, especially on arrival, for the child. A flexible return to school program can be instituted. Additional learning support may be needed as may support with socialising.

A good education is important in life. Getting help early is essential for your child and the family. Talk to your GP about any concerns you have.

Solution Across 1. Drops (5) 3. Pregnant (8) 6. Vegetables (10) 10. Bullying (8) 11. Distress (8) 12. Virus (5) 13. Lifestyle (9) 14. Pain (4) 15. Medical (7) 16. Shock (5) 17. Diet (4) 18. Fever (5) **Down:** 1. Doctor (6) 2. Sleep (5) 3. Pressure (8) 4. Age (3) 5. Depression (10) 7. Adolescent (10) 8. Surgery (7) 9. Listeria (8) 14. Phone (5) 15. Mood (4)

Avoiding listeria

Listeria is an infection caused by a common bacterium that occurs in the soil and water.

Thus, plants and animals in the food chain can be infected. There are around 65 cases in Australia each year and 10% of these are in pregnant women who are at greatest risk in the third trimester.

Listeriosis increases the risk of still birth, low birth weight and premature labour. Symptoms can be mild or severe with fever, headaches, vomiting and diarrhoea.

While uncommon, it is important to take steps to avoid potential exposure to listeria. Fortunately, this is not difficult and involves not eating 'high risk' foods while pregnant. Foods to avoid are processed delicatessen poultry meats (sliced chicken), soft cheeses (brie, camembert), raw seafood (oysters etc) pre-made sushi, unpasteurised juices and soft serve ice creams.

There are plenty of foods that you can continue to enjoy while pregnant, including hard cheeses, smoked seafood, hard frozen ice cream or gelato, freshly prepared sushi, pasteurised juices and hot deli meats (cooked at over 75C).

When pregnant it is important to maintain a balanced diet. Talk to your GP about any concerns you have and also about both diet and the need (if any) for supplements.

Avoiding listeria is not difficult so there is no need to stress over every mouthful of food you eat.



Weblink <https://womhealth.org.au/pregnancy-and-parenting/listeria-and-pregnancy>



Weblink <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/depression>

Dealing with depression

Depression is a common condition affecting as many as one in five Australians. For some it can be an ongoing condition; for others, there may be only an isolated episode. Depression is more than just feeling sad for a day or two. It is feeling miserable for at least two weeks together with lack of enjoyment of usual activities, withdrawal from friends and often sleep and appetite disturbance.

There are no blood tests or scans. Diagnosis is based on the symptoms described.

Treatment is effective and divides into non-pharmacological and pharmacological. There are a number of medications which can be used if needed. Counselling

through a psychologist or counsellor will be of benefit to many. Your GP can refer you.

Lifestyle measures also help. Eating a healthy diet rich in vegetables and less sugar may help. Cut down on alcohol use. Regular exercise is good for mental health. Meditation or guided relaxation can help. Getting enough sleep is also important. Equally do not stress if your sleep pattern takes a while to get back to normal. Switch off screens at least 30 minutes before bed and have a regular night-time routine.

Regular follow up with your GP is important. Changes in treatment may be needed if you are not making improvement. With recovery, medication (if prescribed) can be reduced and then stopped. You should not stop your medication without talking to your doctor.

Watch on glaucoma

Glaucoma affecting one in eight of those over the age of 80 is the second commonest cause of permanent vision loss in Australia.

It is a build-up of pressure in the eye, which eventually damages the optic nerve. Primary open angle glaucoma is the main form. Secondary glaucoma can follow eye trauma or use of some medications such as steroids.

Acute angle closure glaucoma is when the pressure increases rapidly. This is a painful condition and requires immediate medical attention and surgery.

Generally, there are no predictive symptoms. Vision loss can be slow and gradual. Initially side vision is affected.

Risk factors include advancing age, a positive family history, diabetes and short sightedness.

Diagnosis is by checking the pressure of the eyes. This can be done by an optometrist and is recommended regularly for those aged 40 and above. Visual field testing is also done and this can be monitored over time.

Eye drops to lower pressure are the first line of treatment. The type of drops is influenced by what other medical issue you may have. They reduce pressure either by reducing fluid production or improving fluid drainage.

When drops have failed to bring down pressure or administering drops is too difficult, surgical options including laser surgery or open surgery.



Weblink <https://www.glaucoma.org.au>



PORK CUTLETS WITH ROASTED FENNEL



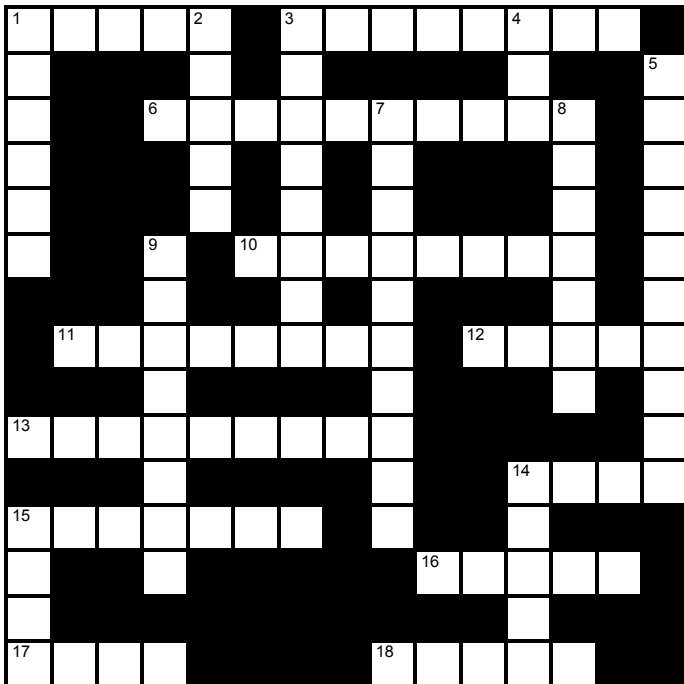
Pork Cutlets with Roasted Fennel & Apple

Ingredients

- 2 large fennel bulbs or 4 baby fennel bulbs – trimmed and thickly sliced
- 1 Red Delicious apple cut into wedges
- 1 Large red onion or 2 small red onions cut into wedges
- 1 lemon cut into wedges
- 4 Whole garlic cloves unpeeled
- ¼ cup Olive oil
- 4 x 200gms pork cutlets
- ½ cup Apple Cider
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 cup baby spinach leaves
- Sea salt & freshly ground pepper.
- Chopped flat leaf parsley to serve

Method:

- Preheat oven to 200C
- Toss the fennel, onion, apple, lemon and garlic with 2 tblspns Olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Place in an oblong casserole dish and roast for 30 minutes until the fennel and onion are tender.
- Rub the pork cutlets with sea salt and freshly ground pepper.
- Heat remaining oil in frypan over medium-high heat. Cook the pork chops in batches for 2 minutes each side or until golden.
- Combine the cider and mustard and add to the pan and cook for a further 2 minutes.
- Pour over the cider sauce and return to the oven. Add the cutlets to the baking dish with the vegetables. Add spinach and toss gently to combine and wilt spinach.
- Roast for a further 5 minutes or until cutlets are cooked through and vegetables are tender.
- Serve vegetables topped with pork cutlets and drizzled with pan juices and parsley to serve.



CROSSWORD

Across:

1. help reduce the pressure of the eyes in people with glaucoma (5)
3. With child (8)
6. A necessity in a good diet (10)
10. Intimidating someone (8)
11. Anxiety (8)
12. A is not helped by antibiotics (5)
13. Manner of living (9)
14. Severe discomfort (4)
15. Health problems (7)
16. Something surprising or upsetting (5)
17. Eating the right for a healthy lifestyle (4)
18. High body temperature (5)

Down:

1. Someone who monitors your health (6)
2. You need a good night's (5)
3. Under constant (8)
4. Usually expressed in years (3)
5. Sad feelings of gloom (10)
7. Person who has reached puberty (10)
8. Medical procedure involving an operation (7)
9. An infection that can complicate pregnancy (8)
14. ... use can affect children's social development
15. In the right(4)

Hughes Family Practice

● SURGERY HOURS

Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6pm

● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

For after hours care please phone:

1300 422 567.

● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

Communication policy.

Our GP's cannot routinely take phone calls during consultations. A message can be left with staff and the GP may call back or arrange a staff member to book an appointment where appropriate. We don't communicate by email.

Test Results.

You will be contacted where there is an abnormal result or if your GP requests follow up. You can call the practice nurse between 12.30 and 1.00 pm for information.

Recalls and Reminders.

Our practice operates a recall and reminder system for a range of health issues and in response to test results as appropriate. Patients wishing to opt out of our recalls system should discuss this with their GP.

Patient Privacy.

The practice takes the privacy of your personal health information very seriously. If you have any questions please ask at reception for a copy of the practice privacy policy.

Repeat Scripts. You need to make an appointment for Repeat Scripts. Fees apply.

